

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, and 26-39 are pending, with Claims 1 and 6 in independent form.

Claims 2-5 and 7-25 have been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to specify, among other things, that light output or radiation emission, respectively, of subsets of LEDs or recording elements, respectively, is altered. These amendments broaden Claims 1 and 6, which previously stated that light/radiation output from *each* LED/recording element was tailored. Because the word “subset” is intended to include one or more LEDs or recording elements, respectively, it is broader than only tailoring the output of individual LEDs/recording elements. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification at least at page 7, lines 13-21. Claims 1 and 6 also have been amended to recite a calculation of a light-output/emission correction for each of a plurality of subsets of the LEDs/recording elements. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification at least at page 6, line 31 to page 7, line 6, and page 11, line 18 to page 12, line 27.

As a general matter, Claims 26-39 have been added by this amendment largely as reconfigured versions of the dependent claims that were cancelled by this amendment to accord with the amended independent claims. In addition, Claims 30, 31, 37, and 38 have been added to make clear that the word “subset” used in the independent claims includes one or more LEDs/recording elements.

Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Independent Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,812,176 (Kawabe et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,967,447 (Lim et al.). Independent Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by the Kawabe et al. patent. All other rejected claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 6 are patentable over the cited references taken separately or in any proper combination for at least the following reasons.

The present invention pertains to correcting individual manufacturing discrepancies common in semiconductor devices, such as LEDs. See page 2, lines 19-33 of the specification. These manufacturing discrepancies cause LEDs used in printing devices to have slightly different light output characteristics at the same applied voltages. Conventional solutions for this type of problem include determining the light output for each LED at a particular applied voltage and adjusting the light output at the particular applied voltage so that it matches that of the other LEDs in the printing device. See, e.g., page 4, lines 16-28 of the specification. However, these types of correction schemes do not account for variations in light output at different applied voltages. For example, the correction measured for LEDs at a particular applied voltage often does not effectively apply to the LEDs for other applied voltages. Accordingly, the present invention solves this problem by, among other things, not just providing a single correction value for a single applied voltage, but applies a correction that varies according to applied voltage. See page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 12. This aspect of the invention is reflected in Claim 1, which recites, among other things, adjusting the light output from the LED subsets as a function of applied voltage in accordance with their corresponding light-output corrections. (It is to be understood, however, that the scope of the claims is not limited to the details of this embodiment, which is referred to for purposes of illustration only.)

The Kawabe et al. Patent, however, is understood to calculate a single correction factor based upon a single applied voltage. In particular, the portions of the Kawabe et al. Patent cited in the Office Action, namely column 25, line 51 to column 26, line 20, describes measuring the brightness of one recording element under the condition “of light emission of all recording elements.” Accordingly, Applicants understand the Kawabe et al. patent to measure the light output of a recording element at a single applied voltage, namely the light emission voltage when in an ON state. Then, a single correction factor, C_i “is calculated from the ratio of the brightness of the obtained brightness (E_i) and the reference brightness (E_o) (an average value of all brightness values)...”

According to Applicants’ understanding, the single correction factor C_i is generated for each recording element based upon a brightness recorded at a single applied voltage. Also according to Applicants’

understanding, the Kawabe et al. Patent does not teach or suggest a different correction factor applied to the recording elements when a different applied voltage is used. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Kawabe et al. Patent does not teach adjusting the light output from LED subsets as a function of applied voltage. Stated differently, Applicants have not found any teaching or suggestion in the Kawabe et al. patent pertaining to applying different correction factors to LED subsets depending upon what voltage is applied to those LED subsets.

The Lim et al. patent is not cited in the Office Action and is not believed to teach or suggest the above discussed feature of Claim 1.

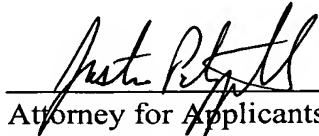
For at least the above discussed reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the Kawabe et al. patent and the Lim et al. patent taken separately or in any proper combination.

Independent Claim 6 is an apparatus claim that includes similar features to those described above in connection with Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim, however, is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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